Confidence in a connected world. ✓ Symantec™

The Association of Corporate Treasurers

Trusted Treasury Online Transactions with Symantec Website Security Solutions

The growing frequency and sophistication of cybercrime dramatically magnifies the threats to information security and make effective risk control more critical than ever before. So when it comes to securing online transactions, safeguarding client information, and protecting its business reputation, the Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT) puts its trust in Symantec. This Chartered body for treasury qualifications, standards, and professional development has standardized on Symantec SSL Certificates to support secure, trusted transactions for treasury learning and professional development. The SSL certification process is quick and easy—with authentication taking as little as two hours in many cases—and the ACT Web domains have passed every rigorous and regular penetration test in the last two years which provides an additional layer of trust to their websites.

The voice of corporate treasury

The ACT is where treasury, risk, and finance professionals learn their craft. The only British professional body specializing in the profession of corporate treasury, the ACT is both an examining body providing a wide range of qualifications, and a membership organization which supports and represents its members. The organisation was recently awarded Royal Charter status. Royal Charters are granted by the Queen on the advice of the Privy Council, and are usually reserved for certain sorts of bodies, that operate in the public interest. A Charter is an assurance to the public that the body is sound and well established, and that its members have a high level of qualification and experience, which is kept up to date; and that their conduct and activities will be properly monitored. Maintaining high standards in all areas of the business is paramount.

The Web is the heartbeat of the ACT's operations, supporting everything from skills-based learning and interaction with treasury professionals, to membership and continuing skills development. On the one hand, the ACT needs to be protected by leading-edge security; on the other, ACT's clients need to be reassured and have the confidence to transact on the Association's website.

To drive the success of these services and protect the transfer of sensitive data on ACT's websites, intranets, and extranets, the organization relies on the Symantec Website Security Solutions.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Website: www.treasurers.org
Industry: Financial Services
Headquarters: London, U.K.

SYMANTEC SOLUTIONS

Website Security Solutions

Why Symantec?

· Solution supports world's largest, most critical certificate deployments

· Uses same infrastructure as DNS that supports .com on Internet

· Continuous product R&D, addressing new standards and protocols

"Symantec is undoubtedly the most trusted name in Website security," explains Charles Cresswell, head of information systems, the ACT. "Their single sign-on SSL certificate management services are quick and easy to use, and the certificates effectively protect the transfer of ACT data across multiple websites."

Best-in-class SSL with authentication and encryption

Mobile working, business expansion, and changes to the way ACT operates recently led the Association to reorganize its Web platform. The adoption of an IRIS customer relationship management platform, for example, means that many of the staff need secure, around the clock access to the ACT services like course curriculum and the membership directory. These and other services all require secure access and therefore ACT chose to use Symantec SSL certificates. "We know the site is safe because it features full business authentication and encryption. The users are confident too because the site uses the Norton Secured Seal, which we know is a sign of trust online" says Cresswell.

He is particularly impressed by the agility and responsiveness of the Symantec team. For example, the ACT recently needed a certificate for a new host as part of a migration of the core email services to a new virtualized infrastructure. After applying through the Symantec portal, the entire process was quick and efficient, with the certificate turned around in a couple of hours. This enabled Cresswell's team to progress internal testing of the new email domain the same day.

Cresswell also acknowledges recent changes to the website process. Symantec has de-coupled the submission of the certificate signing request (CSR) from the process of actually ordering the new certificate. It was immediately obvious why this was done: so that the process of checking the business could be separated from having the server available to generate the signed request. "This demonstrates how in touch Symantec is with customers' needs," he explains. "It is not always possible to prepare the CSR in

advance, especially when the work includes server build. Symantec has given the ACT the flexibility to progress a certificate request in parallel when deadlines are tight."

Passes penetration tests with flying colors

So just how secure are the ACT's websites? To find out, the Association has partnered with an independent penetration testing company to identify any weaknesses in The ACT Web platform, and protect the business infrastructure from internal and external attacks. The partner performs regular penetration testing on The ACT's infrastructure to identify threat and vulnerability risks.

"We have undertaken regular penetration tests in the last two years, and the testers have not found any security issues with the use of Symantec certificates in our infrastructure. When it comes to securing online transactions, safeguarding customer information, and protecting business reputation, we know we're in safe hands with Symantec and the fact that our SSL certificates include a daily malware scan provides us with an additional layer of security," says Cresswell.

SOLUTIONS AT A GLANCE

Key Challenges
- Protect online interactions between treasury professional customers and staff
- Ensure trustworthy service that reflects Association's professional body status

Symantec Product
- Symantec Secure Site SSL Certificates

Technology Environment
- Users: 50
- Application: IRIS CRM, Exchange email, multiple treasury Web domains

BUSINESS VALUE AND TECHNICAL BENEFITS

- Supported secure, trusted transactions for treasury learning and professional development
- Introduced best-in-class SSL with authentication and encryption
- Completed SSL certification in two hours
- De-coupled CSR submission from physically ordering new certificates
- Passed every rigorous and regular penetration test in last two years

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